

What this paper adds

- Numerous cross-sectional studies have shown that the socioeconomic characteristics of residential areas are independently associated with residents' smoking, and that smoking prevalence increases with area deprivation.
- This longitudinal examination of smokers who lived at the same address between 1991 and 1997 suggests that deprivation characteristics of areas may influence smoking behaviour.
- The findings imply that some (currently unknown) attribute of living in a deprived area may contribute to its residents' worse smoking profiles and lower prevalence of quitting.

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CORRECTION

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In the October editorial, How much of the decrease in cancer death rates in the United States is attributable to reductions in tobacco smoking? (*Tobacco Control* 2006;**15**:345-7) an error has occurred in the table. The observed death rate from all cancers combined among women in 1991 was 175.3 per 100 000 (not 17303). The percentage decrease in the death rate from 1991 to 2003 was -8.4% (not -8.5%). The journal apologises for this error.